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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Forty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 29 January 1991, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. BERNALES BALLESTEROS (Peru)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION (agenda item 3)

1. The CHAIRMAN informed the Commission that, after considering the request by the delegation of Kuwait to insert a new sub-item in agenda item 12 entitled "Situation of human rights in occupied Kuwait", the officers had decided, in accordance with the provisions of rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, to recommend that the Commission should adopt that proposal.

2. The officers also recommended that the Commission should take agenda items 4 and 9 and agenda items 5, 6, 15 and 16 together as it had done at previous sessions. It also proposed to group agenda items 23, 24 and 25.

3. With regard to Commission resolution 1990/80, entitled "Assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights", the officers had decided to postpone until later a decision as to the appropriate agenda item for consideration of the report on the subject prepared by Mr. Tomuschat.

4. The officers agreed that the open-ended Working Group on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities should be able to hold a maximum of 10 meetings during the Commission's session. It had also decided to give two additional meetings to the Working Group on the Question of the Draft Body of Principles and Guarantees for the Protection of Mentally Ill Persons and for the Improvement of Mental Health Care, so as to enable it to complete its work.

5. As to the length of statements, the officers proposed that, as at the previous session, members of the Commission should be limited to one statement of 15 minutes or to two statements of 10 minutes per item, and observers and non-governmental organizations to one statement of 10 minutes per item. Observer States mentioned in a report and liberation movements could make one statement of 15 minutes or two statements of 10 minutes per item. With regard to rights of reply, the practice followed by the General Assembly, namely a limitation of two replies, 10 minutes for the first and 5 minutes for the second would be observed.

6. Lastly, the officers proposed that, as at previous sessions, the various experts and special rapporteurs should be invited to appear before the Commission to introduce studies or reports which it had requested them to prepare on the various items contained in the agenda.

7. Mr. Al-KADHI (Iraq) said that his delegation could approve the addition of the new sub-item proposed by the officers of the Commission if that provided an opportunity to consider the consequences of the brutal attacks carried out by the imperialist, Zionist coalition in the name of the United Nations on civilian, economic, religious and cultural targets throughout the region, including Kuwait. His delegation feared, however, that the proposal was only intended to serve the interests of the United States and to reinforce its domination over the United Nations and was merely another United States attempt to tarnish Iraq's reputation. His delegation therefore opposed the amendment.

8. From a procedural point of view, his delegation wished to know whether the proposal was in conformity with rule 5, paragraph 3 of the rules of procedure, whereby a proposal for the inclusion of a new item in the provisional agenda must be submitted not less than seven weeks before the beginning of the session. Since the request put forward by the so-called delegation of Kuwait had only been submitted the previous day, the delegation of Iraq would like to know whether all the legal conditions for its acceptance had been met.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that the proposal came from the officers of the Commission and that it was for the Commission to take a decision on the question. If there were no comments or objections other than those of the delegation of Iraq, he would take it that the Commission wished to adopt the agenda as amended.

10. It was so decided.

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE (agenda item 4) (E/CN.4/1991/6, 7, 8, 60-62 and 65; A/45/3, 13 and Add.1, 35 and Corr.1, 84, 306, 503, 576, 595, 608-614 and 726)

11. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Deputy Director, Centre for Human Rights) said that the question of the violation of human rights in the Arab territories occupied by Israel had been on the agenda of several United Nations organs since 1968. In that year the General Assembly had established the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. United Nations organs had repeatedly condemnded the human rights violations affecting the civilian population in the occupied territories, including violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and had stressed the necessity to adopt measures to ensure effective protection of the basic rights and freedoms of civilians.

12. Since the start of the Palestinian uprising more than three years previously, a further deterioration of the human rights situation had been observed, and United Nations organs had requested that urgent measures should be initiated aimed at halting the tragic spiral of violence and restoring respect for human rights. In its twenty-second report to the General Assembly, the Special Committee had indicated a hardening of repression and a worsening of the human rights conditions of the Palestinian and other Arab civilian population in the occupied territories.

13. At its forty-sixth session, the Commission had adopted resolution 1990/1 concerning Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories. It had also adopted resolutions 1990/2 A and B and 1990/3 with a view to including the question on the agenda of its forty-seventh session as a matter of high priority. The Commission had further requested the Secretary-General to bring resolutions 1990/2 and 1990/3 to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations and the international humanitarian organizations, to give them the widest possible publicity and to report to the Commission at its forty-seventh session on their implementation. The Commission thus had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of those resolutions (E/CN.4/1991/6) and a note by the

Secretary-General listing all United Nations reports issued between sessions of the Commission that dealt with the conditions in which the population of occupied Palestine and other Arab territories was living (E/CN.4/1991/7).

14. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had also addressed the question at its forty-second session in resolution 1990/12.

15. At its latest session, the General Assembly had considered the periodic reports (A/45/84 and A/45/306) as well as the twenty-second report (A/45/576) of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. On 11 December 1990, it had adopted resolution 45/74 A to G, by which, inter alia, it had renewed the mandate of the Special Committee.

16. The Special Committee had held its first series of meetings at Geneva in January 1991. In the course of those meetings, it had taken note of the most recent reports on the situation in the occupied territories and had decided on its programme of work for 1991, which would again include a visit to the area, planned for end May/early June. It had further examined and adopted a periodic report (A/46/55) prepared in pursuance of resolution 45/74 A.

17. Mr. RAMLAWI (Observer for Palestine) said that he would first of all like to express his warm thanks to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for the efforts over the previous 20 years on behalf of the latter. The Committee's report (A/45/576) gave some idea of the suffering endured by the Palestinian people under the Israeli occupation. The situation in the occupied territories had been a source of permanent tension in the region for 23 years and a matter of grave concern to the entire international community. It was plainly the result of a persistent policy of annexation and colonialization carried out by Israel in disregard of the principles of international law and all international standards of human rights. Israel continued to flout all the resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Commission on Human Rights and other United Nations bodies calling upon it to put an end to human rights violations in the occupied territories and to respect its international commitments as a Member of the United Nations, and still refused to implement the 1949 Geneva Conventions despite the continual appeals made to it, particularly by the ICRC.

18. It was only because it benefited from the complicity, aid and protection of certain countries, and the United States in particular, which vetoed any draft resolution attempting to provide international protection to the Palestinian people, that Israel was able to act in that manner.

19. The resistance of the population of the occupied territories, which was firmly resolved to oppose a policy so alien to human rights, had led to a resurgence of violence and increased repression in the territories, where, since the beginning of the intifada, about 1,000 Palestinians had lost their lives and some tens of thousands had been injured. Tens of thousands of Palestinians had been or were still in detention, often under measures of pre-trial detention or administrative detention, and there were increasing allegations of torture or ill-treatment of prisoners. All the violations of human rights of which the Palestinians had been victims for years, and

particularly since the beginning of the uprising, were set out in detail in the reports of the Special Committee and confirmed in the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council. They had also been mentioned by Mr. Wako, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on summary or arbitrary executions, in his report to the Commission at its forty-sixth session (E/CN.4/1990/22).

20. The 13 resolutions adopted by the Security Council since 1970 on Israeli practices in the occupied territories and the 21 resolutions of the General Assembly and 19 resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on the same question had remained a dead letter, since Israel refused to respect international legality. In view of that persistent refusal, it might be asked whether the international community really had no means of persuading Israel to put an end to practices which were contrary to the principles of international law, and to ensure the rule of law in the interests of the Palestinian people. It was precisely in the name of international legality that thousands of tons of bombs were currently being dropped on the people of Iraq by the United States. It was therefore possible for international legality not to be respected where the rights of the Palestinian people were concerned, while it became an instrument of destruction when the United States decided to annihilate a country or civilization. What had happened to the principle whereby international relations should be based on equality of rights and the search for peaceful solutions in conformity with international law?

21. The domination of international relations by a single country and its desire for hegemony reawakened the fear of a return to the dark ages of colonialism. However, many peoples had in earlier times freed themselves from that yoke and unquestionably would do so again. The Palestinian people, in particular, was one of the peoples which would never die; it had always fought and would continue to fight in order to ensure respect for its inalienable rights.

22. Mr. AL-OTHMAN (Observer for Kuwait) deplored the treatment which Israel continued to mete out on the Palestinians of the occupied territories, which clearly showed that it had departed from international legality. Israeli practices and the flagrant human rights violations of which the Palestinians were victims were detrimental to the identity and very history of the Palestinian people, and were incompatible with the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and with the decisions of the bodies responsible for defending human rights. The Commission on Human Rights should take urgent measures to put an end to that situation and oblige Israel to implement the resolutions of the Security Council and to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention. Israeli violations had multiplied since the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, since the Western media gave their entire attention to the Gulf crisis and ignored Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

23. Mr. AL-KADHI (Iraq), speaking on a point of order, asked the Chairman to request speakers to keep to the discussion of agenda item 4.

24. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the debate concerned the question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine.

25. Mr. AL-OTHMAN (Observer for Kuwait) said he considered that he had not departed from agenda item 4 by stressing the fact that the Gulf crisis had resulted in the stepping-up of Israeli repression in the occupied territories.

26. Mr. AL-KADHI (Iraq), again speaking on a point of order, asked the Chairman to request the Observer for Kuwait to restrict himself to consideration of agenda item 4.

27. Mr. AL-OTHMAN (Observer for Kuwait) said that the text of his statement was available to anyone who wished to read it. He recalled that, before being invaded by Iraq, Kuwait had provided financial assistance to the Palestinians in the occupied territories and that there could be no doubt that the Iraqi régime had harmed the intifada by depriving the Palestinians of that assistance. Iraq had therefore wrecked the efforts initiated to assist the Palestinian people. In addition, when the Israeli occupation forces had turned their machine-guns on Palestinians on the esplanade of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in October 1990, international attention had been diverted from that crime to concentrate exclusively on the Gulf crisis.

28. Mr. AL-KADHI (Iraq), once more speaking on a point of order, again deplored the fact that the Chairman of the Commission had allowed the Observer for Kuwait to depart from the subject-matter of agenda item 4.

29. Mr. AL-OTHMAN (Observer for Kuwait), resuming his statement, repeated that the number of Palestinians martyred in the occupied territories had increased to a tragic extent since the invasion of Kuwait. Lastly, he said he wished to draw the Commission's attention to the situation in the Golan, where Israeli attempts at annexation continued, and to the situation in Lebanon, which was the victim of Israel's aggression and of its interference in the country's domestic affairs.

30. Mr. ALIM (Observer for the Sudan) deplored the fact that the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories had never succeeded, since 1968, in making the Israeli authorities respect the international provisions concerning the occupied territories. The Government of Israel allowed its army to fire on unarmed civilians, dispossessed the Palestinians of the occupied territories, exploited their cultural and religious heritage and authorized the construction of Israeli settlements, in defiance of all international instruments and the principles of international humanitarian law. He called for the exercise of the right of self-determination by the Palestinian people, welcomed the intifada and asked that it should be supported by all international bodies concerned with peace and freedom. The protection of the Palestinian people needed to be ensured and an international peace conference on the Middle East organized as rapidly as possible with the full participation of the PLO in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

31. Mr. DIENG (International Commission of Jurists), speaking under rule 76 of the rules of procedure, said that since 17 January, 1.5 million Palestinians had been confined to their homes, under a strictly enforced 24-hour curfew. Any violation was severely punished; dozens of persons had already been

sentenced to stiff fines or periods of imprisonment in summary military trials. Although the Israeli Government had taken extensive measures (distribution of gas masks, early-warning systems, civil defence education, etc.) to ensure the safety of its own citizens, the vast majority of Palestinians in the occupied territories had been excluded from that protection in a clear example of illegal discrimination.

32. The predicament of the Palestinians in the occupied territories in the current crisis served as a dramatic reminder that their basic rights would continue to be violated until they were given the opportunity to accede to self-determination. However, the exercise of that right was subject to a number of constraints, in particular policies which had the effect of altering the physical and demographic nature of the occupied territories. One of the lesser-known ways in which the Israeli Government had sought to achieve that aim had involved the imposition of pseudo-legal restrictions on Palestinian residence rights. It was not synonymous with a "right to return" since it related only to individuals seeking to rejoin family members already resident in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. However, since 1984, Israeli policy had been to accept only the "minimum possible number" of applications for family reunification, thereby reducing as far as possible the number of Palestinians eligible for permanent residence in the occupied territories, while simultaneously encouraging those who already had such rights to leave by denying residence to spouses and/or children.

33. In the light of clear provisions in international human rights and humanitarian law protecting the family unit, only compelling security reasons concerning the individual seeking residence should justify refusal of an application. That was virtually the complete reverse of the true position. In practice, requests for family reunification were denied as a matter of policy except in (undefined) "exceptional" cases, for "humanitarian or administrative reasons". A rejection compelled people to choose between living illegally with their families in the occupied territories or leaving the country of their birth and childhood. Although it was hard to give precise figures, it was clear that thousands of persons were affected.

34. The International Commission of Jurists had documented 1,609 cases in which Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip had had their applications for family reunification rejected. Seventy-five per cent of rejections were cases where one spouse was non-resident and seeking to live with the other spouse in the occupied territories. Children were also affected; Israeli military legislation operating in the West Bank prevented a child whose mother was not entitled to live permanently in the occupied territories from gaining residence rights, even when the child's father was resident and the place of birth was within the occupied territories.

35. The cynicism and short-sightedness with which Israel continued to treat its obligations under international law was symbolized by its persistent refusal to acknowledge the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as well as its disregard for the resolutions of the Security Council. Grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention included deportation, unjustified use of often lethal force and ill-treatment of detainees. In 1990, four Palestinians had been deported from the Gaza Strip although such an act was directly counter to a number of Security Council resolutions, including resolution 608 (1988).

36. The excessive and illegal use of force by the Israeli military remained an issue of major concern. During 1990 alone, 187 Palestinians had been killed by the Israeli military, bringing the total during the intifada to 974. Thousands of Palestinians had been injured and many left with a permanent disability. The past year had been marked by a cyclical pattern of "quiet" periods interspersed with tremendous explosions sometimes resulting in large-scale killings, for example during the month of May 1990, or on 8 October, when 17 worshippers had been killed and hundreds injured in Haram al-Sharif. Following that incident, the Security Council had asked the Secretary-General to send a mission of inquiry to the occupied territories to investigate ways of protecting the Palestinian population, but the Israeli Government had refused to co-operate with the mission and none had been sent (resolutions 672 and 673).

37. Widespread detentions of Palestinians continued. Some 18,000 were currently in detention, of whom some 88 per cent were held in or near military bases. The number of homes demolished or sealed by the Israeli military in the occupied territories stood at 610 since the beginning of the intifada, displacing thousands of innocent Palestinians. Despite constituting a clear breach of international law, the practice of punitive demolition of houses had been persistently upheld by the Israeli High Court.

38. It was clear that Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories would continue to be violated so long as concrete mechanisms of protection were withheld by the international community. Unless prompt action was taken to halt attacks on the demographic and physical basis for Palestinian self-determination and faith in the capacity of international law restored through its effective enforcement, the prospects of a just and lasting settlement in the region could only be diminished.

39. Mr. BENHIMA (Morocco) said that for the past 23 years the Commission on Human Rights had constantly drawn international attention to the sufferings of the Palestinian people, which was the victim of an occupation directed at changing its identity and modifying the demographic structure of the occupied territories. The findings contained in the Commission's many decisions and resolutions, and in those adopted by other international and regional bodies, had been confirmed by various reports by governmental and non-governmental organizations, accounts by journalists and evidence from private individuals describing the situation of the Palestinians in the occupied territories. The reaction of Israel, the occupying Power responsible for all the sufferings and all the misfortunes of the Palestinian people, to the resolutions, censure and reiterated appeals had been rejection and more intensive violations.

40. That attitude proved that Israel was determined to crush the Palestinian people and deny its most elementary rights in the name of religious concepts which had become obsolete in the twentieth century. Israel wanted to expel the Palestinians from their territory while at the same time leaving the door wide open to an inflow of Soviet Jews who, at the present rate of immigration, would exceed 1 million in the near future. It might be asked where the immigrants were to be installed unless in the place of the Palestinians.

41. It was to be expected that Israel would categorically reject all proposals and initiatives for a peaceful and final settlement of the question. At its previous session, the Commission had asked Israel to refrain from settling immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territories, but to no avail. If things went on as they were, there would be very serious crises in the Middle East with dramatic consequences for the stability and safety of all countries in the region. It was no wonder that the intifada was still continuing more than three years later, since the only weapons the Palestinian people had were stones, its perseverance and its endurance in the face of the aggression and violence of Israel's army and police, acting in collaboration with the settlers and extremists who occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. That criminal plan could only lead to a resurgence of violence and confrontations, to the detriment of the weakest element, the Palestinians.

42. He recalled the massacre perpetrated by the Israelis on 8 October 1990 in front of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the massacres of May 1990. In the wake of those bloody incidents, it was legitimate to worry about what would become of young Palestinians born and bred under Israeli occupation. All the documents before the Commission were evidence that the fate of those children was deteriorating from day to day. At a time when the United Nations had adopted and published the Convention on the Rights of the Child, human beings still in the first flowering of their lives were being massacred and subjected to repression.

43. Given the turn of events and the aggravation of the situation, Morocco appealed to the conscience of the international community, and particularly to the permanent members of the Security Council, to protect the Palestinian people and demand the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. History showed that nations could not be annihilated, nor could their existence be denied by destroying their cultural and historical heritage or by attacking their dignity, as Israel was endeavouring to do. The Israeli practices could only strengthen the will of the Palestinian people, which must be enabled to exercise its lawful rights and live peacefully, in conformity with the higher interests of peace and security in the Middle East.

44. He then referred to the question of security in southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights, where the Israeli authorities were endeavouring to evict the population by practices contrary to the most elementary rights of security and peace. Those practices were part of Israel's plan to destabilize the entire region and plunge it into an economic recession. In conclusion, he noted that the Middle East had always been the symbol of coexistence between cultures, civilizations and religions and that it was the cradle of the three revealed religions. His delegation expressed the hope that a climate could be recreated that would bring back peaceful coexistence and peace in the region.

45. Mrs. KIRCHER (Amnesty International), speaking under rule 76 of the rules of procedure, recalled that Amnesty International had, for more than three years, been expressing constant concern about the serious and widespread human rights violations in the Israeli-occupied territories, including large-scale use of detention without trial, systematic ill-treatment and the killing of civilians by Israeli forces. The Israeli Government had been unwilling to take measures of redress for those violations. Some 14,000 Palestinians,

particularly prisoners of conscience, had been held in administrative detention without charge or trial since December 1987. Over 4,000 had been detained during 1990 for renewable periods of up to one year, the vast majority in the Ketziot detention camp in Israel where visits by families did not take place. Detainees were unable to exercise the right to challenge their detention as the reasons were almost invariably withheld. The Israeli authorities justified their silence by the need to protect sources of information.

46. Amnesty International had repeatedly called on the Israeli authorities to review the necessity and appropriateness of maintaining the practice of administrative detention. It believed that that practice should not be used to detain prisoners of conscience or to avoid the safeguards of a regular criminal justice system. Other political detainees should also be released unless they were given an adequate opportunity to exercise effectively the right to challenge their detention.

47. Thousands of Palestinians had been tried by military courts in the occupied territories, most charged with violent offences such as throwing stones or petrol bombs. After arrest they could be held for 18 days before appearing before a judge. Many were denied access to lawyers and families for much longer periods. Confessions allegedly extracted during incommunicado detention were often the primary evidence. Those who pleaded not guilty could find their trials postponed for months and even years. Many pleaded guilty in order to avoid pre-trial detention which would exceed likely sentences. Instances of ill-treatment during interrogation continued to be widespread, and Palestinians had been tortured to obtain confessions or other information: beatings with truncheons and rifle butts, hooding with dirty sacks, sleep deprivation, confinement in small, darkened cells, burning with cigarettes, squeezing of testicles and sexual harassment. Some of those methods were consistent with secret guidelines issued in 1987 by a commission of inquiry into the methods of investigation of the General Security Service. The mission had endorsed "the exertion of a moderate measure of physical pressure" during interrogations. Amnesty International believed that any such authorization departed from international law and accepted standards for criminal law. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments prohibited all forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment under any circumstances.

48. Many Palestinians had been beaten immediately after being apprehended; since December 1987, at least 16 were reported to have died from the injuries inflicted by such beatings. Palestinians were also reported to have died after tear gas had deliberately been used in confined spaces where it could be lethal; also since December 1987, the deaths had been reported of some 80 persons, many elderly or very young, following exposure to tear gas in their homes or other confined places. Since the same date, some 700 Palestinian civilians, including many children and young people, had been shot dead by Israeli forces; some appeared to have been killed deliberately, others to have been the victims of a use of lethal force in circumstances where it could not be justified.

49. In October 1990, at least 17 Palestinians had been shot dead by police at the Haram al-Sharif (Temple Mount) in Jerusalem in the context of a riot. An official commission of investigation had found that the shootings were justified by a life-threatening situation, although it had also established that firing had been indiscriminate and that an ambulance attending to the wounded had been hit, injuring two nurses. A judicial inquest was currently taking place. Amnesty International had called for an independent and impartial judicial inquiry to investigate the incident and to review official guidelines on methods of riot control.

50. Despite the high incidence of apparently unjustifiable deaths since December 1987, Amnesty International was aware of only two prosecutions leading to imprisonment in cases of deaths following punitive beatings, and of five in cases of deaths from shooting. The existing guidelines on the use of force, combined with the related abuses and the inadequacy of official investigations, all led Amnesty International to conclude that the Israeli authorities were condoning, if not encouraging, the perpetration of those human rights violations.

51. It was true that Palestinian methods of protest included violence and that a number of soldiers and civilians had died as a result. Some 300 Palestinians had apparently been killed by other Palestinians, the vast majority on suspicion of collaborating with the Israeli authorities. Amnesty International condemned the torture and killing of prisoners by anyone. At the same time, it called on the Israeli Government to abide by international human rights standards in exercising its authority over the occupied territories. The Israeli authorities should urgently review existing guidelines on the use of force, including firearms and methods of interrogation to ensure that they complied with the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials. Speedy, impartial and public investigations as well as appropriate prosecutions were needed if doubt about the Israeli Government's willingness to protect human rights was to be removed. Israel was already a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Amnesty International strongly urged the Government to ratify those instruments and take all other necessary measures to redress the grave and persistent human rights violations in the occupied territories.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.